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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, December 20, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2021

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's opening prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, the Reverend Lisa Schultz, Church of the Advent, Washington, DC.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our help in ages past, You are our hope for years to come.

Give to the Members of this body a special measure of wisdom and strength to accomplish Your purposes on Earth. Lord, help them to see what a practical resource they have in You as You empower them to complete their business with civility, cooperation, and competence. Bless the leaders of both parties and their staff members. Bless those who chair committees and subcommittees, those who manage bills and labor for liberty. Enable our lawmakers to do what without You would be impossible.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Atul Atmaram Gawande, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 635.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Holly A. Thomas, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 635, Holly A. Thomas, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Alex Padilla, Catherine Cortez Masto, Patty Murray, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tammy Baldwin,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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